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Department of State E32 INCOMING
B1 TELEGRAM

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INFO LOG-08 AOS-08 INR-07 EUR-08 SI-08 CIAE-08 EB-08
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L-03 TRSE-08 PH-18 ALT-02 PA-01 OHB-01 STR-18
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8684

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8418

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH)

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 15943

WIACT ONLY FOR OPS CENTER

RSC FOR DOUG PAAL

CINCPAC FOR FPA FINNEY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOC1, CH

SUBJECT: TFCM81: BEIJING NOT NORMAL--DEPT SITREP 23

REF: STATE 187115

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO AVOID CONVEYING THE IMPRESSION PRESENTED REFTEL (YOUR TFCM81: SITREP 23) PARA THREE THAT BEIJING IS NORMAL. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE PROMOTING THE IMAGE OF A RETURN TO NORMAL, BUT BEIJING IS OBVIOUSLY A CITY UNDER THE THUMB OF MARTIAL LAW TROOPS AND IS UNEQUIVOCALLY NOT/NOT RETURNING TO NORMAL.

--OUR NORMAL CONTACTS WITH BEIJING RESIDENTS ALL OVER THE CITY FROM VARYING WALKS OF LIFE HAVE ENDED FOR THE TIMEBEING. PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO TALK TO US;

--THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY CIRCULAR ISSUED JUNE 13 (SITREP 51) AUTHORIZED THE USE OF FIREARMS TO DISPERSE ILLEGAL GATHERINGS;

--ARMED TROOPS, TANKS, AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS ARE DEPLOYED IN THE CITY, INCLUDING ON AND AROUND TIANANMEN SQUARE AND THE FORBIDDEN CITY. NOTE: ALTHOUGH CHANGAN JIE TO THE NORTH AND THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE HISTORY MUSEUM ARE OPEN, THE SQUARE REMAINS CLOSED AND ENCIRCLED BY TROOPS, ARMORED VEHICLES, AND BARBED WIRE. THE FORBIDDEN CITY IS OPEN ONLY THROUGH THE NORTH GATE AND AREAS DIRECTLY NORTH OF TIANANMEN SERVES AS A TROOP BIVOUAC AND IS CLOSED. END NOTE;

--WE DO NOT FORESEE THESE FORCES LEAVING ANYTIME SOON, NOR DO WE PROJECT THE END OF MARTIAL LAW IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SOME TROOPS BELIEVE THEY WILL BE HERE FOR SIX MONTHS. OBVIOUSLY ARMY DAY ON AUGUST 1 AND NATIONAL DAY ON OCTOBER 1 ARE IMPORTANT DATES HERE;

--THE CHINESE MEDIA IS ISSUING WANTED NOTICES COMPLETE WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, DESCRIPTIONS, AND CALL-IN PHONE NUMBERS FOR "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" STUDENTS AND WORKERS WHICH CONVEY A BRUTAL AND INTIMIDATING MESSAGE. REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY SHOW THOSE ALREADY CAPTURED BY THE POLICE AND "BROUGHT TO JUSTICE;"

--CHINESE RESIDENTS OF BEIJING HAVE REPORTED THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE TAXING PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR "QUESTIONING," AGAIN CONVEYING AN INTIMIDATING MESSAGE TO BEIJING RESIDENTS.

3. IN SUM, A SENSE OF DREAD AND GRAVE CONCERN HANGS OVER THE CITY, DESPITE THE AUTHORITIES' BEST EFFORT TO PORTRAY A SUPERFICIAL CALM AND RETURN TO NORMALCY.

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED
LILLEY

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
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